

Site Profile 2/9/88

Site Name Big River Mine Tailings, Desloge, MO

CERCLIS # MOD981126899

Site Spill Identifier None recorded

Lead Agency: EPA

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Site	Big River Mine
Mod	MOD981126899
Break	
Other	

OKR

Business Type The site is approximately 500 acres of lead mine tailings from past mining operations

Waste Types/Quantities Approximately four million cubic yards of mine tailings exist at the site The tailings contain 2-4% lead and unknown concentrations of zinc, cadmium, and copper

Site Description/History The tailings are located approximately one mile northwest of Desloge, Missouri, 63601, in St Francois County (coordinates 37° 53' 11 4" N latitude and 90° 33' 0 0" W longitude) The 500 acres of tailings occur at depths of 0-100 feet inside a horse shoe bend of the Big River The mine was in operation from 1929 to 1958

On November 10, 1987, E&E/FIT was tasked by EPA to prepare a preliminary assessment report and form by reviewing the extensive EPA reports and MDNR files on the site, and a site reconnaissance The PA form was submitted on December 9, 1987 The formal report is expected to be completed by April 30, 1988

Potential Routes of Contamination Transport Approximately 500 acres of soil could become contaminated from the lead tailings The potential for surface water contamination is high due to continuous past and present eroding of the tailings into the river At the site and several miles downstream, the bottom of the Big River is lined

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with mine tailings A study in 1982 found the river biota to contain elevated lead, cadmium, and zinc levels This could lead to the potential contamination of the food chain Sport fishing for human consumption occurs on the Big River There is a potential for ground water contamination from surface water due to faults existing in the area The potential for air contamination exists from lead-laden dust blowing off the top of the tailing piles Direct contact is also a potential hazard as the site is easily accessed, and people have driven all-terrain vehicles on the mine tailings piles

Conclusions/Recommendations Lead, cadmium, zinc and copper containing mine tailings from past mining operations are eroding into the Big River The migration and direct contact potential is very high at the site The total population affected in a 3-mile radius is 27,739 Therefore, the site warrants further investigative action Specific action should be based on the conclusions and recommendations of the final preliminary assessment formal report being written by FIT